

REMARKS

Claims 1-43 are pending. Claim 1 is amended herein.

Double Patenting and § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-21 and 23-43 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as purportedly unpatentable over claims of U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/712,590 in view of JP 54-052690 (Asawa). In addition, claims 1-21 and 23-43 stand provisionally rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/712,590, possibly taken in view of JP 54-052690 (Asawa). Applicants enclose herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.321. Applicants here state that the present application and the reference application, U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/712,590, were, at the time the present invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same person. (MPEP § 706.02(I)(2)(II)) The Terminal Disclaimer is also provided in support of this statement. Applicants submit that the double patenting and § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-21 and 23-43 have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 10-12, 15-17, 20-21, 23-29, 32-34, 37-39 and 42-43 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as purportedly unpatentable over claims of U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/712,361 in view of JP 54-052690 (Asawa). In addition, claims 1-7, 10-12, 15-17, 20-21, 23-29, 32-34, 37-39 and 42-43 stand provisionally rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/712,361, taken in view of JP 54-052690 (Asawa). Applicants have amended claim 1 herein. The present rejections should be withdrawn, since neither of the cited references teach a method employing a polymer having the second pendent group recited in the claims as amended herein.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 10-11, 23-24, 27-28, and 32-33 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by JP 54-052690 (Asawa). Applicants have amended claim 1 herein. The present rejection should be withdrawn, since Asawa does not teach a method employing a polymer having the second pendent group recited in the claims as amended herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action acknowledges that claims 22 and 44 contain allowable subject matter.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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